Ammunition supplied to Army

407. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the army had received in 1990 ammunition worth Rs. 19.06 crores from a foreign supplier whose normal shelf life had already expired;

(b) what is the quantity and value of ammunition received;

(c) when and from which country this ammunition was purchased and at what cost;

(d) the details of amount so far paid;

(e) what is the normal shelf life of this ammunition and what are the reasons for which it was accepted when its shelf life had already expired;

(f) what steps have been taken to recover damages/penalties from the supplier for supply of such an ammunition and what is the amount of such damages or penalty amount recovered or proposed to be recovered; and

(g) how has this ammunition been utilised or proposed to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) A quantity of 46,700 rounds of ammunition was received between 1988 to 1990 against two credit contracts of 1987 with a company of the former USSR. Out of this quantity, 18,900 rounds valued at Rs. 19.06 crores supplied in 1990 were found to have been manufactured between 1973 to 1981.

(d) An amount of 823542.42 Roubles has so far been paid for this ammunition towards repayment of credit.

(e) As per the practice adopted by DGOA, the normal shelf life for this ammunition is 10 years from the date of manufacture. However, when the matter was taken up with the Soviet/Russian authorities, they had clarified that ammunition of the same vintage was still held in current lots, in use with the Soviet Army and was thus, fully serviceable.

(f) In view of the position explained by the Soviet authorities no damages/penalties have been levied.

(g) A major portion of the ammunition has been issued to various Ammunition Depots to make up the deficiencies against the War Wastage Reserve (WWR) of the Indian Army, and the balance is held in stock by Army Ordnance.

News-item regarding defence blueprints in Pak hands

408. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in the times of India of 28th June, 1994, under the caption "Indian defence blueprints in Pak hands";

(b) if so, what are the facts in this regard;

(c) whether Government have made any enquiry in the matter;

(d) if so, what are the details of the enquiry and what further action has been taken thereon;

(e) whether a staff member of the Pakistan High Commission at New Delhi was caught red-handed on 11th July 194 while accepting classified defence documents from an Indian contact man as reported in the Indian Express of 12th July, 1994;

(f) if so, what are the facts in this regard and the details of classified defence documents recovered from Pakistan High Commission employee or from his contact man; and

(g) what action Government have taken in the matter and also to safeguard the classified defence documents in the Ministry of Defence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) An investigation has revealed that this story in the Times of India of 28 June 1994 is factually incorrect. The story first appeared in the Pakistani Newspaper, 'The News', Government of India has issued a denial that there is no truth in the report.

(e) and (f) In a separate and unrelated episode, one Shri Mohd Afzal Bajwa, a staff member of the Pakistan High Commission was caught on 11 July 1994 while he was in the process of procuring classified material from an Indian contact. It will not be desirable to divulge details at this stage.

(g) Govt. requested the Govt. of Pakistan to withdraw Shri Afzal Bajwa for activities not compatible with his diplomatic status. Shri Bajwa was accordingly, withdrawn by the Govt. of Pakistan and has left the country on 19 July 1994. Instructions are given from time to time for safeguarding security of classified information.

Supply of spares from Russia

409. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken for ensuring the supply of spare parts and other Defence equipments for which arrangements were there with U.S.S.R. on the recent visit of the Prime Minister to Russia; and

(b) what are the details of new agreements made with Russia to strengthen our Defence capabilities during the recent visit of Prime Minister to Russia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The Government are maintaining continuous contact with the Russian authorities to ensure a smooth flow of defence related supplies. At the same time, the country's defence requirements are being sought to be met through indigenous Industry, and from diverse sources abroad.

(b) An agreement on formation of Indo-Russian Aviation Pvt. Ltd., a joint venture company, was signed during the recent visit of Prime Minister to Russia.

Agreement with Russia for servicing of Russian Planes

410. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a joint venture agreement has been signed with Russia which will create a private company in India to service and repair Russian made planes of all types in operation around the Third world; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) An agreement on formation of a joint venture company by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) alongwith certain Russian organisations was signed in Moscow on 30 June 1994. The scope of activities of the joint venture company covers warehousing of aviation stores and servicing, repair, modification, etc. of aeronautical equipment.